

SHELLFISH DEPARTMENT

*FEB 2017
MONTHLY REPORT*

Public Fisheries:

With the mild winter so far, shellfishing in the harbor continues with only a few breaks with closer due to weather and temperature. Chipmans cove sees the most the activity. With the oyster market still not buying too many wild oysters many of the commercial shellfisherman have switched over to digging quahogs. The recreational shellfishermen mainly come on the weekends mainly harvesting in Chipman's cove and Indian Neck. Blackfish creek had an old cultch pile emerge from the shifting sands and many commercial and recreational shellfishermen took advantage of these oysters that survived a few years under silt, sand, and mud. Some oystermen are now hitting South Lieutenant Island with good product but low counts per tide. There are a few boats still in the water fishing for blood-clams. Many of the blood-clams are dieing in the harbor at all stages from juvenile to adult. The fishermen on boats have to tap each clam to see if they are alive.

Law Enforcement

We dumped a few catches during this period with no incidents to report.

There was a minor seed violation from a recreational shellfishmen all seed was returned.

Public Enhancement

We plan on getting started on our quahog cages soon. The Department's boat got a new engine installed. Our trucks have gone in and out of service for minor repairs on brakes and oil changes. At the end of Februrary I will be leaving my position as Shellfish Constable. John Mankevetch will be the temporary Shellfish Constable during the search for a new Constable. Chris Manulla will take the Assistant position during this period as well.

Respectfully submitted

Andy Koch
Shellfish Constable.